



COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
  
COMMITTEE ON  
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0509**

April 29, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

I am requesting funding in the amount of \$1,048,500 for Lodi Access Center Emergency Shelter in the fiscal year 2023 Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

The project sponsor for this project is the City of Lodi, and the project is located at 710 N. Sacramento Street, Lodi, CA 95240.

The City of Lodi is in the midst of developing a navigation center called the Lodi Access Center and Emergency Shelter ("Access Center"). It will have the capacity to house Lodi's 2022 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count number of unsheltered persons. The Access Center will be a low-barrier, service-enriched shelter that will facilitate the linkage to needed resources to help individuals exit the cycle of homelessness. Onsite services include intensive case management, hygiene facilities, 24/7 staffing including security and janitorial services. The Access Center will offer those in need the opportunity to regain safety and engage in supportive connections that allow them to move forward with rebuilding their lives, as well as develop pathways to permanent housing, income, healthcare, sobriety, and stability. To make sheltering more accessible, partners, pets, and possessions will be allowed.

As outlined in the Community Response to Homelessness - 2020 San Joaquin County Strategic Plan, on a given night in 2019, there were 2,631 men, women and children experiencing homelessness in San Joaquin County, with 1,558 of those people living unsheltered on the streets, in vehicles, or in encampments. More than 83% of these individuals had their last stable residence in San Joaquin County. As of the 2019 PIT Count, 139 unsheltered resided within the Lodi City limits. Although the 2022 PIT Count numbers are still pending, the City anticipates an increase of unsheltered individuals in the Lodi community to upwards of 200 +/- . While there are many reasons San Joaquin County residents may fall into homelessness – reduced work hours, medical bills or an unexpected expense, loss of a relative, or mental health issue – these members of the community are living without stable housing or the support to regain it.

Current shelter resources in Lodi have qualifications that one must meet to reside at the shelter facility, which creates barriers that many of the City's unsheltered individuals cannot surpass. An Access Center in Lodi will reduce barriers to assist those who are harder to reach. As there are currently no low-barrier shelter beds in the City of Lodi, the development of the Access Center is pivotal to assisting one of the

City's most vulnerable populations and will also aid the community at large. This project is in alignment with the San Joaquin County Strategic Plan to increase access and reduce barriers to homeless crisis response services.

An individual experiencing homelessness would be able to enter the Access Center shelter even if they were not clean and sober, so long as they remain respectful of staff and other residents. This would allow clients the opportunity to seek out flexible and individualized social and clinical services as necessary to achieve their goals. The Access Center will have a strong focus on job readiness and support services for those clients ready for the next steps to self-sufficiency. This is one of the paths that demonstrated success as reported in the Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress.

The location for the Access Center has already been acquired after an extensive community engagement process and approval by the City Council. The location includes a 23,000 sq. ft. freestanding building and approximately 1.4 acres of land. The project will be an adaptive reuse of an industrial building to house 200 +/- unsheltered individuals. The capacity of the Access Center will meet the needs of Lodi's 2022 PIT Count. The location acquired is directly adjacent to the only other existing shelter within Lodi, Hope Harbor, which is operated by The Salvation Army. The location provides a unique opportunity to efficiently utilize community resources and provide a high level of care that can adapt to each individual's needs depending on where they are on their path to stability.

Currently, the City of Lodi, as with other cities, incurs significant expenses in relation to the unsheltered population within its Parks and Recreation, Police Department, and Hospitals. For example, the Lodi Police Department received over 6,000 phone calls on an annual basis in relation to individuals experiencing homelessness within Lodi City limits. Many of those calls are in relation to camping in public right-of ways, loitering, littering, etc. Moreover, local hospitals have expressed concerns with not only cost, but staffing resources to assist unhoused individuals. Oftentimes, there are limited exits to recuperative care beds, which means the potential for lengthy overnight stays. The City is exploring recuperative care bed options in collaboration with local hospitals and service providers to allow for discharge from hospitals into a safe clean environment for recovery which will limit the number of overnight stays required.

Funding for this project would be a good use of taxpayer funds, as the Access Center would provide a low-barrier option for individuals to seek shelter and receive critical, lifesaving resources and services. Additionally, the Access Center will help reduce the financial and staffing strain on the City's local resources, including parks, police department, and hospitals, by enabling more unhoused individuals to be sheltered.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerry McNerney", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress